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| 09/989,110 | 11/21/2001 | Satoshi Senga | 041-2080 | 1303 |

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LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
Suite 310
1700 Diagonal Road
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

DOAN, DUYEN MY

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2143

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,110

Applicant(s)

SENGA ET AL.

Examiner

Duyen M. Doan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/21/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detail Action

Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goft et al (us pat 6490586) (hereinafter Goft) in view of Haggerty et al (us pat 6331983) (hereinafter Haggerty).

As regarding claim 1, Goft disclosed receiving a request for division into groups, the request indicating which one or more other terminals belong to the same group (col.2, lines 45-59, col.3, lines 8-44); and performing either one of selective reception and selective replay of stream data issued from only the one or more other terminals belonging to the same group in accordance with the request, the stream data being

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simultaneously transmitted through a communication network to the plurality of terminals having the same multicast address (col.6, lines 1-44).

Goft did not expressly disclose the stream data.

Haggerty taught the multicast of stream data (see col.7, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate stream data of Haggerty in Goft such that to have the stream data because both Haggerty and Goft has taught inventions related to multicasting data from one user to multiple users.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Goft because having stream data in the multicast environment would ensure real-time delivery (see Haggerty col.6, lines 58-60).

As regarding claim 2, Goft-Haggerty disclosed the performing step is a step of selectively receiving the stream data issued from only the one or more other terminals belonging to the same group (see Goft col.2, lines 4-26, lines 45-59).

As regarding claim 3, Goft-Haggerty disclosed the performing step is a step of selectively replaying the stream data issued from only the one or more other terminals belonging to the same group (see Goft col.3, lines 8-49).

As regarding claim 4, Goft-Haggerty disclosed making the host terminal divide the plurality of terminals to a plurality of groups of terminals in response to a division request (see Goft col.3, lines 61-67, leader of multicast group); making the host terminal transmit information about a plurality of divided groups to the client terminals having the same multicast address, each of the client terminals recognizing one or more

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terminals belonging to the same divided group (see Goft col.3, lines 8-67); and making each of the client terminals perform either one of selective reception and selective display of stream data issued from only the one or more terminals belonging to the same divided group, the stream data being simultaneously transmitted through the communication network to the plurality of terminals having the same multicast address (see Goft col.6, lines 1-44).

As regarding claim 5, Goft-Haggerty disclosed request receiving means for receiving a request for division into groups, the request including information indicating that the terminal belongs to which group (see Goft col.3, lines 8-14); producing means for producing, in response to the request, only the stream data coming from one or more other terminals belonging to the same group as the terminal (see Goft col.6, lines 1-44); and replaying means for replaying only the stream data produced by the producing means (col.6, lines 1-44, processing the data).

As regarding claim 6, Goft-Haggerty disclosed the multicast system is a multicast conferencing system for a multicast conference, in which the terminal serves as one of a plurality of conference terminals (see Goft col.2, lines 60-65, multicast group message).

As regarding claim 7, Goft-Haggerty disclosed data receiving means for selectively receiving only the stream data coming from the one or more other terminals indicated by the request among the stream data coming from the other conference terminals having the same multicast address (see Goft col.6, lines 1-44); and scene re-writing means for re-writing the selectively received stream data into a scene description

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on the basis of scene descriptions making correspondence between layout information to be displayed and the stream data (see Goft col.6, lines 1-44, filtering the data), and the replaying means is configured to replay the stream data according to both of the stream data selectively received by the receiving means and the scene description re-written by the scene re-writing means (see Goft col.6, lines 1-44, processing the data for display).

As regarding claim 8, Goft-Haggerty disclosed data receiving means for receiving the stream data from the other conference terminals having the same multicast address (see Goft col.6, lines 1-5, lines 52-67, col.6, lines 1-44); and scene re-writing means for selectively re-writing only the stream data into a scene description on the basis of scene descriptions making correspondence between layout information to be displayed and the stream data, the stream data to be re-written coming from the one or more other terminals indicated by the request among the stream data coming from the other conference terminals having the same multicast address (col.6, lines 1-44), and the replaying means is configured to selectively replay the stream data received by the receiving means in accordance with the scene description re-written by the scene re-writing means (col.6, lines 1-44).

As regarding claim 9, Goft-Haggerty disclosed deciding means for arbitrarily deciding a plurality of divided groups of terminals among the plurality of terminals all having the same multicast address; and issuing means for issuing the request, based on the plurality of groups decided, to the request receiving means and the other terminals all having the same multicast address (see Goft col.3, lines 6-67).

As regarding claim 10, the limitations are similar to claim 7, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 7.

As regarding claim 11, the limitations are similar to claim 8, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.

As regarding claim 12, Goft-Haggerty disclosed the scene description consists of layout information composed of sizes and positions of windows for replaying video data included in the stream data and media information composed of information about identifying the stream data to be replayed, and the replaying means includes scene changeover means for selectivity changing over only the layout information in response to the re-written scene description so that only the stream data coming from the one or more other terminals belonging to the same group are replayed (see Goft col.5, lines 2-24, lines 52-67).

As regarding claim 13, the limitations are similar to claim 12, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 12.

As regarding claim 14, Goft-Haggerty disclosed the replaying means includes means for changing a layout of the windows to be displayed by moving in position the windows responsively to a user's operation (see Goft col.5, lines 13-24, col.6, lines 1-44).

As regarding claim 15, Goft-Haggerty disclosed a single host conference terminal designated in the plurality of conference terminals (col.3, lines 45-67), including: first request receiving means for receiving a request for division into groups, the request including information indicating that the terminal belongs to which group

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(see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); first producing means for producing, in response to the request, only the stream data coming from one or more other terminals belonging to the same group as the terminal (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); first replaying means for replaying only the stream data produced by the first producing means; deciding means for arbitrarily deciding a plurality of divided groups of terminals among the plurality of terminals all having the same multicast address (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); and issuing means for issuing the request, based on the plurality of groups decided, to the first request receiving means and client conference terminals all having the same multicast address (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); and a plurality of remaining client conference terminals, each including: second request receiving means for receiving the request for division into groups (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); second producing means for producing, in response to the request, only the stream data coming from one or more other terminals belonging to the same group as the terminal (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44); and second replaying means for replaying only the stream data produced by the second producing means (see Gofit col.3, lines 8-67, col.6, lines 1-44).

As regarding claim 16, the limitations are similar to claim 7, therefore rejected for the same ration as claim 7.

As regarding claim 17, the limitations are similar to claim 8, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.

As regarding claim 18, the limitations are similar to claim 1, therefore rejected for the same rationales as claim 1.

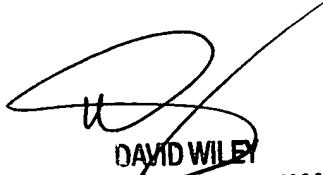
As regarding claim 19, the limitations are similar to claim 7, therefore rejected for the same ration as claim 7.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duyen M. Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner
Duyen Doan
Art unit 2143
DD


DAVID WILEY
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100